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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,163	08/31/2005	Herve Van Respaille	LOM-0045	8664
23599 7590 05/18/2007 MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201			EXAMINER THOMAS, ALEXANDER S	
			ART UNIT 1772	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/18/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/521,163

**Applicant(s)**

VAN RESPAILLE, HERVE

**Examiner**

Alexander Thomas

**Art Unit**

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 1, line 1, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1,2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the patent publication ZA 9406419 A. The reference discloses a cover comprising a peripheral binding 12 having a hook or loop fastener 14 on at least two side edges; see the Figure and Abstract.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heller 4,810,024. The reference discloses a covering mat comprising a binding and hook/loop material attached to a surface of the covering; see Figures 5 and column 4, lines 46-66. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place the hook/loop fastener material on any portion of the rear of the covering mat in the reference, such as on the binder portion of the rear of the mat, since shifting of the location of parts is within the general skill of a worker in the art. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place either the hook or the loop portion of the fastener combination on the covering mat in the reference since it is known in the hook/loop fastener art to use these two materials interchangeably.

6. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altus 4,692,364 in view of Heller or applicant's acknowledged state of the art. The primary reference discloses the invention substantially as claimed, namely that a covering mat comprising two pieces of carpet placed back to back and bound by a edge binding is typical in the art; see column 3, lines 11-17 of Altus. However, it does not disclose the use of a hook/loop fastener on the covering to prevent movement of the mat on a substrate. The secondary references disclose the use of hook/loop fasteners on covering mats as old in the art; see page 3, lines 13-16 of the instant specification and column 5, lines 43-66. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place hook or loop fastening means on covering mat disclosed in the primary reference

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in view of the teachings in the secondary references in order to prevent movement of the mat. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place the hook or loop fastening material at any location on the mat of the primary reference since shifting of the location of parts is within the general skill of a worker in the art.

7. Claims 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent publication ZA 9406419 A. The reference discloses a cover comprising a peripheral binding 12 having a hook or loop fastener 14 on at least two side edges; see the Figure and Abstract. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use any known means, such as stitching, for fastening the hook/loop fastener means to the cover of the reference. It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to place either the hook or loop part of the fastener combination on the cover since it is known in the fastener art to use these materials interchangeably.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1502. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00 M-THUR.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander S. Thomas".

ALEXANDER S. THOMAS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER